THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOL DAR): RAF is an integral part of CRPF. The composition of RAF is maintained in such a way that all communities get adequate representation including minorities. Wide publicity of recruitment programmes is given amongst the members of minority communities including Muslims through advertisement and by giving information through voluntary agencies promoting welfare of such communities.

बिहार में मधुबनी और झंझारपुर जिलों में टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज योजना

1117. श्री रामदेव भंडारी: क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि बिहार के मधुबनी और झंझारपुर जिलों में क्रमश: दस हजार और दो हजार लाइनों वाले टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज लगाने की योजना को मंजूरी दी जा चुकी है;

(ख) क्या सरकार द्वारा तीन महीनों के अंदर एक्सचेंज लगाने की संभावना है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है?

संचार मंत्री (श्री बेनी प्रसाद वर्मा): (क) से (ग) जी नहीं। उच्चतर क्षमता के एक्सचेंजों की कोई पर्याप्त मांग नहीं है। तथापि, मधुबनी में 2000 लाइनों वाले एक इलेक्ट्रानिक एक्सचेंज का संस्थापन कार्य चल रहा है जिसके अक्टूबर, 1996 तक चालू कर दिए जाने की संभावना है और झंझारपुर में वर्ष 1997-98 में 1000 लाइनों के एक इलेक्ट्रानिक एक्सचेंज की योजना बना ली गई है।

Development of Works of Ports in Eighth Five Year Plan

1118. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the outlays provided for in the Eighth Five Year Plan for developmental works for major Ports in the country;

(b) out of the same, how much has been utilized;

(c) the main features of developmental works carried out during the last five years Port-wise; and

(d) the details of modernization of Port facilities and updated technology achieved so far during the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) During 8th Five Year Plan, an outlay of Rs. 3216 crores has been provided for development in Port Sector. As against this around Rs. 1369 crores have been utilised so far.

(c) During the last five years, a number of projects relating to construction of multi-purpose/general cargo berths, coal jetties and deepening of channel have been commissioned, raising the total cargo handling capacity of the Major Ports to 177 million tonnes. In addion two virtual jetties for handling POL products have also been put up by the oil companies at Kandla. 30 new schemes costing about Rs. 2147 crores have been sanctioned so far for providing port facilities at Major Ports in the 8th Plan and will add a capacity of 42 million tonnes over the Eighth and early Ninth Plan periods.

(d) The modernisation of port facilities includes the addition of container handling equipment at Jawaharlal Nehru and container handling facilities developed at Cochin and Calcutta modern oil handling facilities developed at New Mangalore and Mumbai Ports, replacement of old submarine piplines undertaken at Mumbai new oil jetties taken up for construction at Kandla and Visakhapatnam state of the art mechanised coal handling facilities under implementation at Paradip, a brand new Major Port for handling mechanised coal handling facilities under implementation at Ennore near Madras, modern general cargo berths completed at Paradip and Visakhapatnam and new cargo handling cranes with current technology being provided at the ports of Madras and Kandla. Further introduction of modern vessel traffic management system (VTMS) is in progress at the ports of Mumbai and Calcutta. Modern facilitations like computerisation and management information system are also being increasingly introduced

in Major Ports. Efforts are already on towards introduction of electronic data interchange (EDI) in the Port Sector.

Maintenance of Telecom Services in Tribal Areas of Andhra Pradesh

1119. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Prades Telecom has slackened efforts to properly maintain telecom services to tribal areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is frequent break-down in telecom services in tribal areas like Polavaram in West Godavari district; and

(d) steps propose to improve telecom services to such backward areas during 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. The Telecome Services in the areas have been working satisfactorily. However, in the month of May, 1996, the transmission link was distributed due to damage to antenna at Polavaram due to cyclone.

(d) The steps proposed to further improve the Telecom Services in the area during 1996-97 are as follows:—

i. It is planned to provide STD facilities to 7 more tribal stations.

ii. Old mechanical Exchanges are being phased out by Electronic exchanges.

iii. Open wire long distance media is being replaced by reliable microwave links.

iv. Out of 102 tribal villages in West Godawari District 34 villages have already been provided with telecom facilities. Efforts are being made to cover the rest in a phased manner.

Refusal to Accept Flood Donations from Indians

1120. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report in the Hindustan Times of January 14, 1996 to the effect that blood donations from Indians are bluntly refused in Sweden on grounds of congenital risk factor;

(b) if so, whether in any other European and developed countries blood donations by Indian donors are also refused on similar grounds of race, being carriers of congenital risk factors;

(c) if so, Government's information in this regard; and

(d) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir. However, the report is inaccurate. There is no legislation in Sweden which discriminates among donors on the basis of a congenital risk factors.

(b) and (c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Increasing Production of New Vehicles

1121. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been considerable increase in the production of all kinds of vehicles in the country during the past years and they are on the roads of the country;

(b) if so whether Government have formulated any comprehensive plan to improve and expand the roads keeping in view of the arrival of these new vehicles;

(c) if so, the comprehensive details thereof;

(d) whether any effective steps have also been taken in this direction during the past years; and